

A. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. through 5. (previously canceled)

6. (previously amended) A method for four players to play a modified game of chess,
- comprising:

(1) providing a playing area, said playing area having 144 playing stations arranged in a 12 by 12 matrix, said playing stations being of two alternating types, said playing area having four sides, each said side having (1) 12 said playing stations eight of which are middle playing stations wherein two said playing stations are disposed on either side of said eight middle playing stations, and (2) eight inner playing stations disposed in inward abutting relationship with said eight middle playing stations;

(2) providing four sets of chess pieces;

(3) placing one said set of chess pieces in conventional starting arrangement upon said eight middle playing stations and said eight inner playing stations of each said side of said playing area;

(4) one said player disposed adjacent to each said side of said playing area, wherein said set of chess pieces disposed on a particular side of said playing area belong to said player who is also disposed on said particular side;

(5) providing rules of play, said rules of play including:

- conventional rules of chess play;

- additional rules of play which modify said conventional rules of chess play, said additional rules of play including:

- said four players sequentially taking turns moving their said chess pieces;

(6) said four players playing a modified game of chess in accordance with said rules of play;

in step (1), said playing area having four corner groups of said playing stations, each said corner group having four said playing stations arranged in a square configuration;

in step (5), said additional rules of play including one of:

- (a) during play said chess pieces not allowed to occupy said playing stations of said four corner groups; and,
- (b) during play said chess pieces initially not allowed to occupy said playing stations of said four corner groups, but upon the occurrence of a predetermined event, said chess pieces being allowed to occupy said playing stations of said four corner groups.

7. (previously amended) A method for three players to play a modified game of chess, comprising:

(1) providing a playing area, said playing area having 144 playing stations arranged in a 12 by 12 matrix, said playing stations being of two alternating types, said playing area having four sides, each said side having (1) 12 said playing stations eight of which are middle playing stations wherein two said playing stations are disposed on either side of said eight middle playing stations, and (2) eight inner playing stations disposed in inward abutting relationship with said eight middle playing stations;

(2) providing four sets of chess pieces;

(3) placing one said set of chess pieces in conventional starting arrangement upon said eight middle playing stations and said eight inner playing stations of each said side of said playing area;

(4) one said player disposed adjacent to each of three said sides of said playing area, wherein said set of chess pieces disposed on a particular side of said playing area belong to said player who is also disposed on said particular side;

(5) providing rules of play, said rules of play including:

- conventional rules of chess play;

- additional rules of play which modify said conventional rules of chess play, said additional rules of play including:

- designating said set of chess pieces disposed on a fourth side of said playing area as common pieces which may be moved by any of said three players;

- said three players and said common pieces sequentially taking turns moving;
- when it is said common pieces turn to move, said three players sequentially taking turns moving said common pieces; and,

(6) said three players playing a modified game of chess in accordance with said rules of play.

8. (original) The method of Claim 7, further including:

in step (5), said additional rules of play including:

- putting a king into checkmate by one of (1) said pieces of two other said players, and (2) said pieces of two other said players and said common pieces.

9. (original) The method of Claim 7, further including:

in step (5), said additional rules of play including:

- One of (1) when a king is checkmated, said player whose king is checkmated removing all his or her said chess pieces from said playing area and retiring from play, and (2) when a king is checkmated, said player whose king is checkmated removing his or her king from said playing area, leaving all remaining said chess pieces in place on said playing area, and retiring from play.

10. (original) The method of Claim 7, further including:

in step (5), said additional rules of play including:

- when a king is checkmated, said checkmate removable by an intervening player.

11. (original) The method of Claim 7, further including:

in step (2), each said set of chess pieces including at least one master pawn; and,

in step (5), said additional rules of play including said master pawn moving diagonally and capturing straight ahead.

12. (original) The method of Claim 7, further including:

in step (1), said playing area having four corner groups of said playing stations, each said corner group having four said playing stations arranged in a square configuration;

in step (5), said additional rules of play including one of:

(a) during play said chess pieces not allowed to occupy said playing stations of said four corner groups; and,

(b) during play said chess pieces initially not allowed to occupy said playing stations of said four corner groups, but upon the occurrence of a predetermined event, said chess pieces being allowed to occupy said playing stations of said four corner groups.

13. through 17. (previously canceled)

18. (previously amended) A method for three players to play a modified game of chess, comprising:

(1) providing a playing area, said playing area having 144 playing stations arranged in a 12 by 12 matrix, said playing stations being of two alternating types, said playing area having four sides, each said side having (1) 12 said playing stations eight of which are middle playing stations wherein two said playing stations are disposed on either side of said eight middle playing stations, and (2) eight inner playing stations disposed in inward abutting relationship with said eight middle playing stations;

(2) providing three sets of chess pieces;

(3) placing one said set of chess pieces in conventional starting arrangement upon said eight middle playing stations and said eight inner playing stations of three said sides of said playing area;

(4) one said player disposed adjacent to each said three sides of said playing area, wherein said set of chess pieces disposed on a particular side of said playing area belong to said player who is also disposed on said particular side;

(5) providing rules of play, said rules of play including:

- conventional rules of chess play;

- additional rules of play which modify said conventional rules of chess play, said additional rules of play including:

- said three players sequentially taking turns moving their said chess pieces;

(6) said three players playing a modified game of chess in accordance with said rules of play;

in step (1), said playing area having four corner groups of said playing stations, each said corner group having four said playing stations arranged in a square configuration;

in step (5), said additional rules of play including one of:

(a) during play said chess pieces not allowed to occupy said playing stations of said four corner groups; and,

(b) during play said chess pieces initially not allowed to occupy said playing stations of said four corner groups, but upon the occurrence of a predetermined event, said chess pieces being allowed to occupy said playing stations of said four corner groups.

19. (previously amended) A method for two players to play a modified game of chess, comprising:

(1) providing a playing area, said playing area having 144 playing stations arranged in a 12 by 12 matrix, said playing stations being of two alternating types, said playing area having four sides, each said side having (1) 12 said playing stations eight of which are middle playing stations wherein two said playing stations are disposed on either side of said eight middle playing stations, and (2) eight inner playing stations disposed in inward abutting relationship with said eight middle playing stations;

(2) providing four sets of chess pieces;

(3) placing one said set of chess pieces in conventional starting arrangement upon said eight middle playing stations and said eight inner playing stations of each said side of said playing area;

(4) one said player disposed adjacent to each of two said sides of said playing area, wherein one said set of chess pieces belong to each said player;

(5) providing rules of play, said rules of play including:

- conventional rules of chess play;
- additional rules of play which modify said conventional rules of chess

play, said additional rules of play including:

- designating said sets of chess pieces disposed on two unoccupied sides of said playing area as common pieces which may be moved by both of said two players;
- said two players and said two common pieces sequentially taking turns moving;
- when it is each of said common pieces turn to move, said two players sequentially taking turns moving said common pieces; and,

(6) said two players playing a modified game of chess in accordance with said rules of play.

20. (original) The method of Claim 19, further including:

in step (5), said additional rules of play including putting a king into checkmate by one of (1) said pieces of said other player and one said set of common pieces, (2) said pieces of both said sets of common pieces, and (3) said pieces of said other player, and both said sets of common pieces.

21. (original) The method of Claim 19, further including:

in step (2), each said set of chess pieces including at least one master pawn; and,
in step (5), said additional rules of play including said master pawn moving diagonally and capturing straight ahead.

22. (original) The method of Claim 19, further including:

in step (1), said playing area having four corner groups of said playing stations, each said corner group having four said playing stations arranged in a square configuration;

in step (5), said additional rules of play including one of:

- (a) during play said chess pieces not allowed to occupy said playing stations of said four corner groups; and,
- (b) during play said chess pieces initially not allowed to occupy said playing stations of said four corner groups, but upon the occurrence of a predetermined event, said chess pieces being allowed to occupy said playing stations of said four corner groups.

23. through 25 (canceled herein).

26. (currently amended) A method for two players to play a modified game of chess, comprising:

(1) providing a playing area, said playing area having 144 playing stations arranged in a 12 by 12 matrix, said playing stations being of two alternating types, said playing area having four sides, each said side having 12 said playing stations;

(2) providing two, and only two, sets of chess pieces, each said set of chess pieces including:

16 pawns;

four rooks;

four knights;

four bishops;

only one king; and,

only one queen;

(3) one said player disposed adjacent to one said side of said playing area, and another said player disposed adjacent to another side of said playing area, one set of said chess pieces belonging to one said player and the another set of said chess pieces belonging to said other said player;

(4) said two players placing their chess pieces upon said playing area;

(5) providing rules of play, said rules of play including:

- conventional rules of chess play;

(6) said two players playing a modified game of chess in accordance with said rules of play;

[The method of Claim 23, further including:]

in step (1), said playing area having four corner groups of said playing stations, each said corner group having four said playing stations arranged in a square configuration;

in step (5), said additional rules of play including one of:

(a) during play said chess pieces not allowed to occupy said playing stations of said four corner groups; and,

(b) during play said chess pieces initially not allowed to occupy said playing stations of said four corner groups, but upon the occurrence of a predetermined event, said chess pieces being allowed to occupy said playing stations of said four corner groups.

27. through 28. (canceled herein)

29. (currently amended) A method for two players, and only two players, to play a modified game of chess, comprising:

(1) providing a playing area, said playing area having 144 playing stations arranged in a 12 by 12 matrix, said playing stations being of two alternating types, said playing area having four sides, each said side having 12 said playing stations;

(2) providing four sets of chess pieces, each said set of chess pieces being distinguishable from each other said set of chess pieces;

(3) one said player disposed adjacent to one said side of said playing area, and another said player disposed adjacent to another side of said playing area, two sets of said chess pieces belonging to one said player and another two sets of said chess pieces belonging to said other player;

(4) said two players placing their chess pieces upon said playing area;

(5) providing rules of play, said rules of play including:

- conventional rules of chess play; and,

- additional rules of play which modify the conventional rules of chess

play, the additional rules of play including;

- the game ending when both of a player's kings have been put into
checkmate; and,

(6) said two players playing a modified game of chess in accordance with said rules of
play; and,

[The method of Claim 27, further including:]

in step (5), said additional rules of play including:

- One of (1) when a king is checkmated, said player whose king is checkmated
removing all his or her said chess pieces of the same color from said playing area,
and (2) when a king is checkmated, said player whose king is checkmated
removing said checkmated king from said playing area, and leaving all remaining
said chess pieces of the same color as said checkmated king in place on said
playing area.

30. (original) The method of Claim 29, further including:

in step (5), said additional rules of play including:

-when said checkmated king is removed from said playing area, said removal
counted as a move by said player.

31. (canceled herein)

32. (currently amended) A method for two players, and only two players, to play a modified
game of chess, comprising:

(1) providing a playing area, said playing area having 144 playing stations arranged in a
12 by 12 matrix, said playing stations being of two alternating types, said playing area having
four sides, each said side having 12 said playing stations;

(2) providing four sets of chess pieces, each said set of chess pieces being distinguishable
from each other said set of chess pieces;

(3) one said player disposed adjacent to one said side of said playing area, and another
said player disposed adjacent to another side of said playing area, two sets of said chess pieces

belonging to one said player and another two sets of said chess pieces belonging to said other player;

(4) said two players placing their chess pieces upon said playing area;

(5) providing rules of play, said rules of play including:

- conventional rules of chess play; and,

- additional rules of play which modify the conventional rules of chess

play, the additional rules of play including:

- the game ending when both of a player's kings have been put into
checkmate; and,

(6) said two players playing a modified game of chess in accordance with said rules of
play;

[The method of Claim 27, further including:]

in step (1), said playing area having four corner groups of said playing stations, each said corner group having four said playing stations arranged in a square configuration;

in step (5), said additional rules of play including one of:

(a) during play said chess pieces not allowed to occupy said playing stations of said four corner groups; and,

(b) during play said chess pieces initially not allowed to occupy said playing stations of said four corner groups, but upon the occurrence of a predetermined event, said chess pieces being allowed to occupy said playing stations of said four corner groups.

33. through 34. (previously canceled)

35. (previously amended) A method for two players to play a modified game of chess, comprising:

(1) providing a playing area, said playing area having 144 playing stations arranged in a 12 by 12 matrix, said playing stations being of two alternating types, said playing area having four sides, each said side having 12 said playing stations eight of which are middle playing stations wherein two said playing stations are disposed on either side of said eight middle playing

stations, each said side further having (1) eight first tier playing stations disposed in inward abutting relationship with said eight middle playing stations, (2) eight second tier playing stations disposed in inward abutting relationship with said eight first tier playing stations, and (3) eight third tier playing stations disposed in inward abutting relationship with said eight second tier playing stations;

(2) providing two sets of chess pieces;

(3) placing one said set of chess pieces in conventional starting arrangement upon said eight second tier playing stations and said eight third tier playing stations of two opposite sides of said playing area, so that said middle playing stations and said first tier playing stations are disposed behind said sets of chess pieces;

(4) said two players disposed adjacent to said two said sets of chess pieces;

(5) said two players playing a modified game of chess;

in step (1), said playing area having four corner groups of said playing stations, each said corner group having four said playing stations arranged in a square configuration;

in step (5), one of:

(a) during play said chess pieces not allowed to occupy said playing stations of said four corner groups; and,

(b) during play said chess pieces initially not allowed to occupy said playing stations of said four corner groups, but upon the occurrence of a predetermined event, said chess pieces being allowed to occupy said playing stations of said four corner groups.